



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION VICTORIAN BRANCH

May Newsletter 2021

In the spirit of reconciliation, The Australian Local Government Women's Association Victorian Branch acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We acknowledge and respects their unique ability to care for Country, and their deep spiritual connection to it. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



As the President of the ALGWA Victoria, I warmly welcome you all to our May newsletter.

It was wonderful to have seen so many of you on the weekend for our 2021 conference; it was exciting to see everyone face-to-face.

One of the reasons it was so appropriate for us to have been at the City of Yarra this weekend is because 2020 marked the centenary of the first woman elected to local government in Victoria. A century on from Mary Rogers' election to Richmond City Council as Victoria's first female Councillor, more than 2,000 women have followed in her footsteps.

As we know, in the centenary year of 2020, 272 women were elected to Victorian councils - the highest percentage of women (43.8%) in any Australian state. We also have the highest percentage of women local government CEO's and directors.

These are both fabulous results. We now need to continue to build on these to achieve 50/50 by 2025 – one of our strategic goals in alignment with the state government.

In December last year, after a wide-reaching discussion and surveying our retiring councillors, we were considering our 2021 conference and what our theme should be.

This year, our theme was **“culture, conduct and retention: the next 100 years of women in local government”**.

No, we weren't prophetic.

We do believe the theme could not have been more appropriate for us all, as we build the foundations of our next four years – and indeed the next one hundred – in local government.

We are all now part of the next hundred years. What do we want this to look like and what is the legacy you want to leave our future generations?

As you listened to all our amazing speakers, we know you were not only

inspired, but that you were also going to leave better equipped to go back to your councils and make a difference. As a result of our conference, we know your toolbox is going to have a lot more in it to help you achieve these goals. We also know that we are here to work with you as part of your journey.

We unpacked our theme together. Now, we give time to digest and grow the seeds of learning and help each other to show others what can be done when we support each other to flourish.

Warm regards,
Mayor Kylie Spears
ALGWA Vic President

ALGWA Vic Conference 2021 Wrap-Up



Words cannot express how excited we were to interact face-to-face with our wonderful ALGWA Vic members at our conference! In a year where we reflect and celebrate 100 years in local government, what better time is there to look towards the future of culture, conduct and retention?

In case you missed this year's conference, here are just a few photos that capture what we experienced over the two days. With over 55 councils represented from across the state, we're so pleased to know everyone walked away with new connections, greater knowledge, and a better understanding of the achievements that can be made when women work together.

We had great conversations, learned about each other's challenges, and gained a greater awareness of topics that are so important and relevant to

our roles within local government.

Thank you to all those who attended - we can't wait to see you again next year!

So who's hosting next year??? See below if you want it to be your council 😊



Mental Health First Aid Certificate Courses

It was a standing ovation for dynamic speaker, Maggie Toko, at our 2021 State Conference. Mental health is an issue that affects 1 in 4 people. We have either experienced it or know someone who has. Maggie's story drew

us all to tears. So real and raw.

ALGWA Vic believes in supporting one another - this includes our well-being. Therefore, it is appropriate for us to partner with an organisation to be able to offer all our members a discounted rate for obtaining your **Mental Health First Aid Certificate**.

Mental Health Foundation Australia was established over 90 years ago and today provides services and support including mental health first aid certificates.

Click the link below to see current course dates available in July and August. Sessions are limited to 25 persons per **two-day course**. The discounted rate for all our members including council officers and partner organisations is **\$149.00 per person**.

[Click this link for course dates and to book your course!](#)

[Click to become an ALGWA Vic member today!](#)

May Event

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19 May 2021, 11:30pm-12:30pm

Just a reminder that our ALGWA Vic Annual General Meeting is coming up, which will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 19 May 2021 at 11:30am.

We invite and encourage you to attend. Please join us in sharing the achievements of ALGWA Vic in the last year and our vision for the next 12 months.

[Click link to book](#)

Churchill Fellowship Research Paper

Guest Speaker Coral Ross. Event supported by Deakin University

8:00am – 9:30am Thursday, 22 July

Deakin Downtown

A dedicated event on a world-first research paper on improving gender equality in local government. After being awarded the Churchill Fellowship in 2019, Coral Ross discovered 50 overseas initiatives and has made 30 recommendations on improving gender equality in local government by investigating the ways of increasing the numbers of women elected to local government.



Join us and directly hear about her world-first research and findings. Click on the link below to secure and book your tickets.

[Click link to book](#)

2021 Annual Bursary Award Nominations

Our 2021 Annual Bursary Award nominations are now open!

In 1989, under the leadership of then-President Pam Robinson OAM, ALGWA Vic established an Annual Bursary Award to encourage and assist women in the local government sector to further their education. Since

then, the prize has been awarded to 28 women from member councils all across metro and regional Victoria.

Nominations are open to any female employee of a council member of ALGWA Vic. The successful nominee will be awarded \$1750 toward furthering their education. To nominate, please fill out the nomination form on our [website](#) and email it to Admin@algwa.com, along with a letter of recommendation from your council employer.

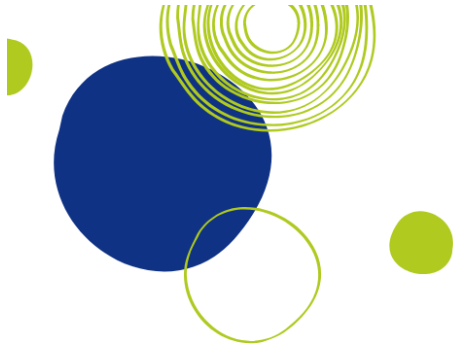
Take the chance to further your career by nominating for this fantastic award!

“I believe this award provides not only an opportunity but encouragement for those who are looking to continue to progress within the sector and further educate themselves”

- Danielle Pepyat – City of Maroondah, 2020 ALGWA Vic Annual Bursary Award Winner

“I’ve always felt like local government is more than just a job. I’m grateful for the opportunity to connect with such a wonderful organisation that paves the way for women in the sector”

- Renee Russell – City of Casey 2020 ALGWA Vic Annual Bursary Award finalist



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GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S
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VICTORIAN BRANCH**

Nominations for our 2021 Bursary Award are Now Open!

Nominations are open until the 12th of July

Are you a woman?

Do you work in local government?

Are you currently studying?

**Nominate for our Annual Bursary Award and help
further your career in local government !**

Nominate Now!

Host the next ALGWA Vic Conference

EOI Applications are now open



**SUBMIT YOUR
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR THE NEXT
ALGWA VIC CONFERENCE
TODAY!**

HOST OUR NEXT ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Getting involved with us is easy.

[Download Conference EOI](#)

Expressions of interest to host the next ALGWA Vic conference are now open.

Our 2021 annual ALGWA Vic conference was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported us - we've loved having the opportunity to come together, learn from one another, and grow.

Looking forward, we're very excited to announce that we're opening up expressions of interest for your council to potentially host our future annual conferences.

- 2022 is open to rural-based councils
- 2023 is open to metro-based councils

We're planning ahead, so jump on board and submit your council's

expression of interest form today! [Download the info booklet here, inclusive of the EOI form](#). You'll find all the information you need about running one of our annual conferences here. We'd love to hear what ideas you and your team have for our next conferences.

Questions? Contact our Executive Officer, Cr Michelle Kleinert, at admin@algwa.com.au.

Submissions close on August 18, 2021.

ALGWA Vic Intern Program Updates



Hello everyone - my name is Carrington, and I'm so excited to be part of the ALGWA Vic Intern Program this year. I started a few weeks ago, and during this time I've been working closely with the ALGWA Vic Exec. Officer, Michelle. Together, we've been working hard to streamline all of the ALGWA Vic conference information into one, cohesive Expression of Interest form. I developed the design for the dynamic EOI document, and have also been planning the marketing for future conferences by creating promotions for the form.

It's been very encouraging to have someone such as Michelle oversee my internship experience considering her background and wealth of knowledge in local government. She really goes to show how ALGWA Vic is dedicated - even to their interns - in ensuring that their mission and vision statements stay true.

Attending the ALGWA Vic annual conference

this year was a fantastic opportunity; I had a wonderful time meeting and speaking with such passionate women from local government. Fair and equal representation is so important in this sector - without it, social diversity along with policy- and decision-making don't appropriately support our communities.

I am delighted to intern with an association such as ALGWA Vic because the need to represent and support women in government needs to begin at a local level. I'm looking forward to the remainder of my Internship Program very much indeed.

ALGWA Vic Brochure

Click to become an ALGWA Vic member today!

